



# GRANTS NEWS YOU CAN USE

No. 12

Conservation Commission Grants Program Newsletter



July 1999

## Supervisors and cost sharing

During the last legislative session a bill (SHB 1747) was passed that allows district supervisors to receive State cost share assistance without violating the Municipal Officers Ethics Law. The bill revises RCW 89.08.220(4).

Since the Governor signed the bill, there has been some confusion about the effective date of this change in our law. Commission staff inquired of the Secretary of State's office and the State Code Reviser's office and was told that SHB 1747 becomes effective 90 days after the close of the regular legislative session, which ended April 25, 1999. That means the new law became effective on July 25, 1999. After this date, districts may include supervisors in their cost share programs without violating the Municipal Officers Ethics Law.

WACD is working to define some recommended procedures districts may use when making cost share decisions involving supervisors and associates. If you have any ideas that might help in developing these recommendations, we encourage you to pass them on to Don Stuart, WACD Executive Director, at 206/546-7690. Don's email address is: [cstu@ix.netcom.com](mailto:cstu@ix.netcom.com).

## What the heck is a RFEG? And why should I care?

It's a regional fisheries enhancement group. These are nonprofit organizations established by state law (Ch. 75.50 RCW) to develop and carry out projects, using volunteers, that will enhance the state's salmon and steelhead fisheries. The RFEGs are funded by the sale of fishing licenses, salmon carcasses and eggs.

There are 12 RFEGs in the state – 11 west of the Cascades and one on the East Side. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife provides funding and administrative support.

Why should you care? If you've been contacted by Bob Bottman of our grants staff, you already know why. For the 1999-2001 Biennium the Commission was given an appropriation of \$500,000 for the 12 RFEGs to continue volunteer coordination activities begun under the People For Salmon project, which ended on June 30, 1999. To get these dollars to the RFEGs, the Commission must pass them through conservation districts, since districts are the only entities we can give money to. This is a great opportunity for districts and the Commission to work more closely with RFEGs to build a stronger, better-unified salmon restoration program.



The Commission is presently writing grants to get this money to the RFEGs through ten conservation districts. These new partnerships are shown below:

<i>Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group</i>	<i>Partner CD</i>
1. Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA)	Whatcom CD
2. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Skagit CD
3. Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force	Snohomish CD
4. Mid-Sound Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	Kitsap CD
5. South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	Thurston CD
6. Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Mason CD
7. North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC)	Clallam CD
8. Pacific Salmon Coalition	Clallam CD
9. Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force	Thurston CD
10. Willapa Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	Pacific CD
11. Lower Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Group	Cowlitz CD
12. Eastern Washington Fisheries Enhancement Group	N. Yakima CD

If you have questions on our new relationship with RFEGs, feel free to call Bob Bottman at 360/407-6204, or email at [bbot461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bbot461@ecy.wa.gov).

## The Auditor told us what to do with BARS at Sleeping Lady ... did you understand it?

The discussion at the recent WADE Workshop of the revised Budgeting, Accounting, and Reporting System (BARS) surprised some of us.

The BARS codes conservation districts use to track and report on revenues and expenses had not been updated since 1987, and there were many changes. We've been told the Auditor now plans to update the codes annually.

If you weren't able to attend the WADE Workshop, and you haven't received a copy of the draft BARS manual, let us know. We'll make sure you get a copy ASAP. Please make it a priority to review the draft manual and compare it to the codes you currently use. The new codes go into effect January 1, 2000.

Back to the WADE Workshop presentation. There were so many questions that the presenter from the Auditor's Office didn't get to the reporting requirements.

**Thank you to everyone involved in putting on the wonderful WADE Workshop – it was the best yet!**

So, by popular demand, Cheryl Witt has set up two supplemental workshops this fall. The first one will be held October 4, 1999 in Olympia; and the second will be held on October 6, 1999 in Ritzville. Contact Cheryl for more information on the first workshop, and Chris Cook, Adams CD, for information on the second.

Following these workshops, the Auditor's Office will finalize the BARS Manual, and the Commission will send it to each district as a Procedure Manual revision.

If you have any questions on the new BARS Manual, call Cheryl Witt at 360/407-6205.

### **Can't make it to the October 6<sup>th</sup> BARS workshop?**

Cheryl Sonnen, who is working with Chris Cook to set up the October 6<sup>th</sup> BARS Workshop, has heard from several of you that you can't attend the East Side workshop due to conflicts with other scheduled activities.

If enough of you cannot make it to the Ritzville workshop on October 6<sup>th</sup>, Cheryl Sonnen is willing to reschedule it to a better date. *However, you need to let her know by August 13, 1999 in order for this to happen.*

Cheryl's phone number is 509/758-8012. Her email address is: [cheryl-sonnen@wa.nacdnet.org](mailto:cheryl-sonnen@wa.nacdnet.org).

### **If you're a BARS overachiever ...**

You can order the complete (really thick) BARS Manual from the State Auditor for just \$40. If you want this as a reference for every BARS code under the sun, as well as some good accounting tips, order the "Category 2 BARS Manual." Call Lisa Tagman at 360/753-4792.

### **Who ya' gonna call?**

Not Ghostbusters. When you want to talk about vouchering, budget tracking, and amendments under any of your Commission grants, you need to call either Debbie Schenck or Ann Holleman.

Our grants staff has taken a more holistic approach to contract administration.

**Debbie is now handling grant contracts for all districts alphabetically from Adams to Okanogan.**

**Ann is handling grant contracts for all districts from Othello to Whitman.**

This includes all grants except Basic Funding, which Debbie will continue to administer. Also, Ann will retain responsibility for tracking and entering data from your quarterly reports of accomplishment.

Debbie's phone number is: 360/407-6212. Her email address is: [desc461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:desc461@ecy.wa.gov). Ann's phone number is: 360/407-6114. Her email address is: [amho461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:amho461@ecy.wa.gov).

### **Need money now?**

If you need to voucher for expenses under your new (1999-01) grant right away, let Cheryl know. She will move your Implementation or Dairy Nutrient Management grant application to the top of the pile (no pun intended).

Most of you have received prior authorization letters for your grants. This means you can incur costs under your grant, but can't be paid for them. For that, you need the grant contract in place.

### **CREP has officially begun ... really!**

Yes, the CREP agreement between the federal government and Washington State is signed. This means we can signup landowners! You should have received your CREP grant application, signed it and mailed it back to us by now. If you haven't, please do so right away.

New CREP contracts have been mailed out to all districts that have applied for them, detailing both the Technical Assistance and Cost Share amounts for this year.

The level of grant funds for this year is based on the amount of agricultural land adjacent to the SASSI critical and depressed spawning areas, and the "A" and "B" areas designated in the mapping parties. These are the eligible land areas currently approved for signups.

This is a good time to meet with your local FSA and NRCS folks and do a "I am here to sign up" walk-through in order to resolve who does what.

Call Mark Clark, CREP Coordinator, if you have any questions. Mark's phone number is 360/407-6531. His email address is [mac461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:mac461@ecy.wa.gov).



**Enjoy the  
dog days of  
summer!**

(July 3-August 15)

